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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Translation

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2003P00054WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/DE2003/003716	International filing date (day/month/year) 10 November 2003 (10.11.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 13 January 2003 (13.01.2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H01R 9/26		
Applicant SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 05 April 2004 (05.04.2004)	Date of completion of this report 01 September 2005 (01.09.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

PCT/DE2003/003716

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages _____ 2-11 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____ 1,1a _____, filed with the letter of _____ 13 August 2004 (13.08.2004)
- ☒ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____ 1-10 _____, filed with the letter of _____ 13 August 2004 (13.08.2004)
- ☒ the drawings:
pages _____ 1/2-2/2 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-10	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: DE-A-196 50 988 (WAGO VERWALTUNGS GMBH)
4 June 1998 (1998-06-04)
D2: DE-C-199 02 811 (WEIDMUELLER INTERFACE)
14 September 2000 (2000-09-14).

- 1) The present application does not comply with the requirements of PCT Article 33(1), because the subject matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step within the meaning of PCT Article 33(3).

Document D1 is considered to be the closest prior art for the subject matter of claim 1. D1 discloses (the references in parentheses are to D1):

modular installation device, comprising

- retaining means for a supporting structure which can be coupled thereto;

- a housing comprising a plurality of predefined module slots;

- connecting modules (25, 26), each of which can be arranged on the module slots and is provided with

connecting means for a conductor which can be connected thereto;

- one contact means (20, 21) per module slot, which has a longitudinal side, and one mating contact means (16, 17) per connecting module (25, 26), and the contact means (20, 21) can be connected, transversally to its longitudinal side, to the mating contact means (16, 17).

The subject matter of claim 1 differs therefore from the known installation device in that:

the modular installation device is equipped

- with one coding means per module slot and one mating coding means per connecting module in order to assign the connecting module to a specific module slot;

- with a snap-in device on at least one of the module slots and one mating snap-in device on at least one of the connecting modules in order to lock and unlock of specific module slots.

The problem addressed by the present invention can therefore be considered that of

constructing a modular installation device wherein the connecting modules cannot be mixed up with one another.

Document D2 describes the same advantages of the feature coding means as the present application. A person skilled in the art would therefore consider the inclusion of this feature in the modular installation device described in D1 to be a routine design measure for solving the problem of interest.

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The solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application cannot be regarded as inventive (PCT Article 33(3)).

- 2) Dependent claims 2-10 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.

Claims 2 to 10 are dependent on claim 1 and relate to further embodiments of the subject matter of claim 1. Consequently, they do not meet the requirement of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).

- 3) The subject matter of the present application relates to electrical connections, and is obviously industrially applicable.